

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to a gastrostomy device comprising, a tubular portion defining a longitudinal axis, an internal bolster having a radial wing secured to the tubular portion, the internal bolster being flexible to permit elastic deformation between a first orientation generally aligned with the longitudinal axis, with the wing wrapped into a generally cylindrical configuration and a second orientation with the wing unfurled and extending generally transverse to the tubular portion longitudinal axis and a constraining member encasing the internal bolster to retain the internal bolster in the first orientation, with the wing wrapped into the generally cylindrical configuration, and to cover at least a major portion of the wrapped wing, wherein the removal of the casing permits the internal bolster to move from the first orientation to the second orientation. The internal bolster may be deployed by the use of a ripcord to tear through the wall of the capsule, freeing the internal bolster of the gastrostomy device into the patient's stomach and deploying the internal bolster to a second orientation with the wing unfurled and extending generally transverse to said tubular portion longitudinal axis. Alternatively, the internal bolster may be deployed by the constraining member being dissolved by the patient's bodily fluids located inside the patient's stomach.